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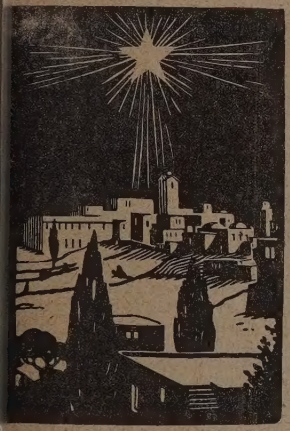


IE KING THAT IS BORN

ason of Friendship,
ason of Light,
eet is the message from Bethle-
aem's night.

ace and Forgiveness
your bells chime,
ristmas, O Christmas, through
very clime.

elcome the Christchild.
ess ye his morn.
ory and laud for the King that is
born!

G. J. SPARHAM.

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS IN MONTREAL

By Leonard Mason

After two months in Canada spent actively and intensely with Church affairs, it is not easy to lift my head and look for what Christmas might bring in another two months' time. But I can guess.

By early October I spotted my first Santa Claus in a shop window in Montreal. Is this a record? What the neon-spectacle will be like by mid-December I hate to speculate.

This morning's radio forecasts the first probable snowfall in this area: an exitement for children for whom ski-ing is a major avocation: a double excitement for my youngest son who is convinced that in next to no time Canadian snow will over-top his four foot six!

At any rate we can expect a White Christmas. There is no lack of fir trees about here, so that I imagine each house will sport one outside the front door, lit with abundant electricity.

I look to Christmas to get to know the children at Church better. A flourishing Church school meets at the time of morning service, so I know its activities mainly as noises off. But at Christmas the scholars will be in Church. Up to now I have been with them for only half an hour on Thanksgiving Sunday while a friend read the service for me in Church. I scampered back just in time to deliver my sermon. But at Christmas we can be leisurely about it—I hope.

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS IN CYPRUS

By G. J. Sparham

How different from what it has been for some years! Also in Cyprus, in any case, how different from what it was years ago in Egypt, or what we once knew as Palestine. First, because under the new Cyprus regime, as far as we know, Service men and women will have the run of the island, instead of being, as they were for four years, confined to camp, unless on perilous duty; and second, because in Egypt and Palestine, Hibbert Houses were operating hostels in, or near, towns, to which men who wanted to escape a camp, or garrison, Christmas gravitated in great numbers, whereas now we are operating clubs, canteens and bookshops within what are termed "barrack areas."

Subject to all this, as regards the bookshops side of our work, looking forward to Christmas began last April, with the ordering of Christmas Annuals, diaries, cards, calendars, decorations and so on. The R.A.F. school on the station comprises 1,000 children; family quarters upward of 200 families; the strength of the station some 3,000 men. So with our normal bookshop activities our hands are full.

Regarding our two canteens, or clubs, we shall suitably decorate our premises, while in our house chapel, on Christmas Day, we shall hold our Unitarian Christmas service and think of our families, fellow Unitarians, other fellow Christians and all the children of God, everywhere.

MEN'S LEAGUE RALLY

At the Autumn rally of the Men's League at Great Hucklow, the panel of well-known personalities such as Principal Kenworthy, Squire Roe and H. P. McCartney answered "Any Questions" under the Chairmanship of the President, Mr. Frank Hall. On Sunday morning the service in the Old Chapel was conducted by Mr. Squire Roe, B.Sc.

WHOSE BIRTHDAY?

By Bruce Findlo

It is harder to believe that Jes was born an ordinary child ordinary parents in a small, remo land, and yet became the found of a great world religion; than it to believe that he was miraculous conceived, and born amid sup natural rejoicing as the only son God. But the harder thing is t more fruitful to believe because says something important abo man. It offers us the possibility th other children, simply born, m grow to greatness and goodness Jesus did.

Then the birthday we celebrate Christmas time is not just his, b gathers up within itself every chil birthday and expresses something the divine and human possibilit of each new life. Christmas, in the terms, is truly a time to rejoice the knowledge that with each n baby born into the world manki has another opportunity to crea a life of goodness which will mir the perfect goodness of God himse Rabindranath Tagore once wro "Every child comes with the messa that God is not yet discouraged man."

A parent who finds this meani in Christmas is reminded of t part as a humble agent of t Divine. We do not know how Jes was brought up, nor with wh natural talents he began: there is detailed guidance for us in story on how to bring up c children—only a vision of what th might become. But we can ded from his adult life that he liv close to church and Sunday Schoo he knew his Bible so well that knew where it was wrong—he liv close to God—this was the m powerful and meaningful fact of life—and all this, surely, had beginning and encouragement parents who themselves valued t religious life above any oth and who gave worship prayer a understanding the central place daily living.

ID LOVE
ME DOWN ?

d Love come down at Christmas?
Was Christ born again for me?
d he help with my Christmas
shopping,
And light my Christmas tree?

ried to feel his presence,
To be guided by his choice;
earched for his seamless raiment,
And I listened for his voice.

as Christmas an orgy of spending
"We have never had it so good"
ere our hearts all dead to the
glory
Of the stable, the star and the
rood?

know it all seems futile
To hope for heaven on earth
cause of a girl called Mary
And the child she brought to birth.

t I really tried at Christmas
To feel his presence near,
d I know his star will guide me
Throughout this glad New Year.

JEAN JENKINS.

(A winning entry in the 1960 verpool District Sunday Schools estival).

HILDREN'S CORNER

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

"Dad," said Raymond, "the hurch Calendar says something ere about collecting toys for poor ildren."

Father looked at it.

"Yes," he said approvingly, "a very ood idea. Now, you do quite well at hristmas, don't you, Raymond?"

"Not too bad, Dad."

"Then how about a thought for hose who don't? I suggest you start y turning out all those toys upstairs that you've refused to part with for years but never play with. Other children could enjoy them better. Now, off you go and sort them out."

Raymond went; and for some time there was an uneasy silence broken by the odd crash. Presently he came down and announced that he had finished. Father went on a tour of inspection and was very pleased. Raymond had thrown out just about everything.

"Good," he said. "Now, keep them in that corner out of the way; and tell Mr. Bradshaw on Sunday so they can be moved."

But Raymond had other ideas.

"I'll tell him now," he shouted, and raced off.

Some time later they heard him come in and clump heavily upstairs. There was a bit of a crash; then Raymond descended and, without appearing, went off again.

The next time he arrived they followed him upstairs and entered the bedroom as he was carefully emptying a sack. The room seemed to be knee-deep in toys.

"What," said father eventually, "is this?"

Raymond explained:

"I saw Mr. Bradshaw, Dad. He said could I hold on to them for a bit as they're stuck for room. So I told him there's plenty of space in my bedroom that we could use."

"All **that** lot?" roared father. "Now look here, Raymond . ."

"It's only for a fortnight, Dad."

"Never mind that . ."

"I'll still be able to get in and out of bed."

"That's beside the point . ."

"And it's Christmas, Dad."

"I know . . ."

"And you said I ought to do something. Well, I am; and I'm enjoying it. We'll have lots of toys to take round; and I think we'll help to make a lot of children happier, don't you?"

"Yes, we do," said Mother. "And I think you'll find that **you** will be, too."

CHRISTMAS

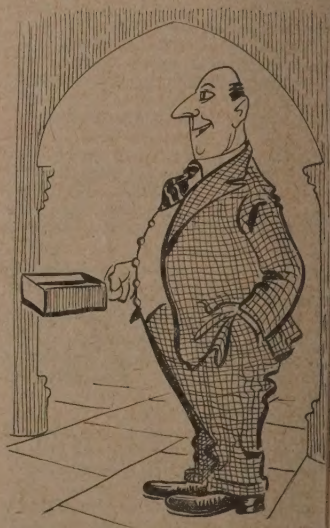
By
Norman Blake

Do you get a Christian kick out of Christmas? My forebears, I know, would have been shocked at the suggestion that ours is not a Christian denomination, yet the Christmas I inherited was devoid of any religious significance. My maternal grandfather had conscientious qualms and insisted on inviting for Christmas someone who otherwise would have been alone. Since the guest was usually unwanted because he was unconvivial, my grandfather's family, even my saintly mother, rebelled. I must admit I have sympathy for my grandfather, but facts are facts and a happy Christmas is built on full hearts not on high principles. Well what's to do?

First of all I challenge our ministers to visit the pubs in their parish, all of them, at least once during Advent to ensure that there is plenty of straw in the stable. I think I know what it means but it deserves consideration. The Puritan tradition has given us all a "thing" against pubs, yet in the pubs are to be found those who think hard and work hard, the desperate and the inspirable. There are, of course, others too; but those in need of a physician, and some who would help in healing, are in the pubs. You may of course visit the coffee bars too, if you like, but I just cannot imagine the infant born in the back premises of a coffee bar to the strain of a juke box. Perhaps it is my innocence. Perhaps there is a new Nativity Play to be written in this setting. God Bless the effort.

In my way of thinking the greatest thing that has happened amongst us, perhaps since Margaret Barr went to the Khasi Hills, was the Christmas-in-the-Church-premises idea. This was not bringing the odd man in, it was making the odds even. This was a real contribution made by us to the Christmas tradition. It will be repeated. It wi often fail. But people who really t to make such an effort work a sooner or later blessed by God. family Christmas must compel us worship, a half hour service Christmas morning with a readi from Christmas Carol is not enoug I am not quite sure what form t Unitarian midnight mass tak except that it is midnight and t whole family is there—if they a not take it from me they will awake picking over their stockin before you've got to sleep. But think that as midnight strikes light comes on to show the nativi scene and there are some li chickens and ducklings and perha a kitten and a puppy all mixed in

Is this just childish — or does make you catch your breath?



"No sir, we do not accept luncheo vouchers!"

Dudley, not Cliff, but he still sends 'em!

SINAI AND CALVARY

"Two religions: two Chosen People" is the title of Dr. Parke' epilogue. But can he really stop at the dual number? Does not the dual commit him to the plural?

When once it is recognised that God has not chosen *one* single fraction of the human race exclusively to be the recipient of religious enlightenment, must we not hold that *all* peoples are "Chosen People" and *all* religions divinely inspired? Christianity and Islam have inherited from Judaism a vision of God as being merciful, compassionate, and loving.

This notion of what God is like is not compatible with the proposition that He has singled out one fraction, or even two fractions, of the human race for special attention and has ignored the vast majority of His human creatures.

From Arnold Toynbee's review of "The Foundations of Judaism and Christianity," by James Parkes. "The Observer," August 28th, 1960.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

The Rev. Tom Nuttall, of Oldham, begins a new ministry at Kendal in January.

Dr. Scott Dunbar, formerly student pastor of Dob Lane, Manchester, is now a Teaching Fellow in Philosophy at the University of New Brunswick, Canada.

Mr. G. H. Lowthian, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers, has been elected chairman of the Industrial Training Council.

The Rev. John Rowland, of Brighton, has written a number of books on different subjects. Out recently are two very different ones —"Poisoner in the Dock" (Arco, 18s.), a study in criminology, and "The Polio Man" (Lutterworth Press, 8s. 6d.), which is a biography of the great American doctor, Jonas Salk, who did so much work on the treatment of polio. In recognition of the first of these two books and of his earlier detective novels and books on criminology, Mr. Rowland has been elected a member of the Crime-Writers' Association, a body which includes in its membership most of the leading crime-writers of the day, such as John Dickson Carr, Margery Allingham, Edmund Crispin, and John Creasy.

Relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Hurst of Lower Barn Farm, Hindley, Lancashire, gathered to the Unitarian Schoolroom recently to celebrate their diamond wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Hurst were married in Hindley Unitarian Chapel on October 10th, 1900, by the Rev. John Moore. They are lifelong members of the congregation and Mr. Hurst has occupied a variety of offices, including that of choirmaster. He has been a member of the Hindley Trust for sixty years and was secretary of it for twenty-five.

Ill-health has caused Mr. Tom Lewis to resign the treasurership of Cefn Coed, Merthyr after 46 years service in that office.

Councillor J. Lord, of Bury, is the new President of the Bury and District group of Unitarian Churches.

The new President of the East Cheshire Union is the Rev. Irvin Hodgson, of Flowery Field, Hyde.

NEWS AND VIEWS

OVERSEAS CHURCHES

Three-hundred-and-sixty children have been enrolled for the VANCOUVER Church School. Up to August this year the Service Committee had shipped 400 cases of clothing to Korea, the Middle East and Hong Kong — approximately 25,000 lbs. net. A recent Minister's letter says: "We have always had the reputation of being a friendly Church. The large influx of new people presents a challenge to the intimate atmosphere."

The first Unitarian meeting has been held at CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand. It was decided to hold meetings monthly. A correspondent says: "We are bound to start from small beginnings ... but I do believe that we shall grow."

HOME CHURCHES

Sandra Moore, of BURY, distributor of "The Young Unitarian," has gone to America as children's nanny to a family living near Boston.

A new Church porch has been built at EXETER.

TAUNTON has launched a renovation appeal for £2,000. So far £800 has been raised.

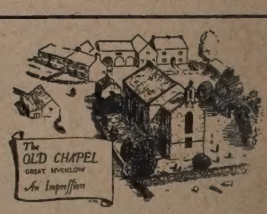
At the general meeting of subscribers to Unitarian College, Manchester, in October, the name of "clerical secretary" was changed to "ministerial secretary." The holder of the office was also changed. The Rev. A. B. Downing having moved to Leicester, the Rev. S. Knight, of Stand, was elected to take his place.

The College subscription secretary reported a very large increase in the income from subscriptions and donations as a result of the special appeal, but increased regular annual income is essential.

The Liverpool Domestic Mission is celebrating its centenary this year. On Friday, October 21st, following a dinner at the Athenaeum, there was a Public Meeting at St. George's Hall. Speakers were the Rev. John Kielty, the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, and Dr. Stanley Kennett. On the following day there was a special service at Ullett Road when the preacher was Mr. Redfern.

All Unitarians studying in the Manchester area are warmly invited to the Manchester Unitarian Students' Society. The meetings of this newly formed society are held each Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. at Cross Street Chapel and will mainly take the form of informal discussions with occasional speakers from the University and elsewhere.

On Saturday, the 8th October, the eighth Service of Affirmation of the



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North and East Lancashire Lay Preachers' Association was held for the second time in succession at Newchurch-in-Rossendale, Lancs. Because of the dangerous plaster-work in the Church, the service was held in the Sunday School. From above the platform the framed picture of the Rev. John Ashworth who served the Church from 1811 to 1851 looked down upon a gathering of about fifty people met to see a member of their Church Committee and holder of other offices, installed as President. Mr. J Sisson (Newchurch) was duly appointed and the presidential emblem was placed around his neck by Councillor Mrs. F. M. Proctor (Newchurch) assisted by her daughter Mrs. K. H. Duke, F.R.H.S., (Newchurch).

His Worship the Mayor of Rawtenstall, Ald. F. Platt preceded the Association members who conducted the service. The others were Coun. J. E. Thomas, B.Sc., (Heywood), Dr. V. M. Conway, B.A., Ph.D. (Kendal) and Mr. R. Lee, B.Sc. (Econ.).

The President in her address referred to the importance of the work of the lay-preacher in view of the fewer ministers; and that the work, study and travel in serving churches was God's work. She spoke of the indifference of the mass of people towards religion, their preoccupation with pleasure, business and education and the vital necessity of churches being kept in being. "The church is our spiritual home," "Good people are happy people," "Do good by being good," were phrases used—the latter as a sermon cameo to her fellow lay-preachers.

Bury United Nations Association is receiving active support from local Unitarians. The Rev. F. M. Ryde is Chairman and Miss Nora Jackson treasurer. Speakers between November and March include the Reverends Dudley Richards and Geoffrey Petts.

Visitors to the International Religious Fellowship meetings in Switzerland are busy reporting on their experiences. None more so than the Mr. Grenville Needham, who also managed to visit countries behind the "iron curtain." He has spoken at Altrincham, Ipswich, Bedfield and Framlingham.

Rotherham's Bazaar in October raised £211 a noteworthy increase on last year when the result was £128.

A Civic Service celebrated the Tercentenary of Upper Chapel, Sheffield, on October 30th. The Lord Mayor and the Vice-Chancellor of

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Essex Hall Lecture, 1960

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the University read lessons, and the Master and Mistress Cutler and representatives of the University attended.

The Autumn meeting of the Manchester and District Women's League was held at STOCKPORT in October. The service was conducted by Mrs. Brigadier Hartington, of the Salvation Army. After tea and a brief Business Meeting Mrs. D. Holroyd spoke on Mental Health.

A large contingent from HULL Drama Circle attended the MILL HILL, Leeds production of "Corinth House."

Fifteen young people from STAND "took charge" of an evening service at HEYWOOD in September. The theme was "Praise with Humility."

The preacher at a service for people of all faiths at 6.30 p.m. on December 4th at BRIGHTON will be Sir John Glubb. On the following Tuesday the Rev. R. W. Sorenson will speak on Nigeria.

The Cross Street Branch of the Men's League held a successful week-end in October when a whist drive was held on a Saturday evening and a Service on Sunday evening. The service was conducted and lessons read by members of the Branch and the sermon was preached by Dr. S. J. Kennett, of Liverpool.

At SCARBOROUGH an Animal Welfare Week-end early in October opened with a Sunday evening service attended by many members of local animal welfare societies and conducted by the Minister, the Rev. G. W. Parkinson, who preached on "The Creed of Kinship." A lesson and poem were read by Mr. G. G. Watson, F.Z.S., who is Curator of the Scarborough Natural History Museum and the Editor of the new national monthly "The Young Naturalist." He also spoke the following day to the Monday Fellowon "Animals by Night." The President, Mrs. G. W. Parkinson, presided over a record attendance.

The first Annual Service of the Monday Fellowship, on October 23rd was well attended especially by Young People. The Minister spoke on "The World's Desperate Need—the Sense of Fellowship."

The Women's League at AINSWORTH was addressed at its October meeting by Miss A Dawson on "The Ordinary People of New York."

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